

Savage Wolves (Part 1)  
Joseph Herrin (09-14-08)

Acts 20:29-30

I know that after my departure *savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.*



We live in that hour of which the apostle Paul spoke. “From among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things.” Their intent is “to draw away disciples after them.” These are described as “savage wolves” who would not “spare the flock.”

These wolves do not look significantly different from the sheep of the flock. Tares look much like wheat. Ishmael was a young man even as was Isaac. Both certainly had a resemblance to their father Abraham, but one was a child of the flesh and the other a child of promise. One was rejected by God, and the other accepted. The Lord told His disciples that wolves would come in among them dressed in sheep’s clothing. In this hour of great deception it is necessary to discern the presence of these wolves in the midst of the people of God.

I would like to ask you to read the following passage of Scripture in its entirety, for quite often it is divided up and people do not make a connection to what is said at the beginning and what is stated at the end. The connection needs to be observed, for that which Christ is warning His disciples about is being fulfilled in this hour.

Matthew 7:15-23

*"Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor figs from thistles, are they? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit; but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits. Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"*

I think it can be discerned from this passage that there are wolves who do not know or admit that they are wolves. The trait of the wolf that Christ identifies is their ravenous appetite. The expression "hungry as a wolf" reveals a central part of understanding the symbolism of what wolves represent. They are self-focused. As Paul declared, they want to draw disciples after THEMSELVES, when they should be drawing men to Christ.

One thing that is missing from the message of ministerial wolves is a need to be Spirit directed in all that men do. Rather than pointing Christians to a Spirit led life where they do nothing of their own initiative, but live to do the will of the Father (this being the context of Christ's words above), they seek to make men disciples of themselves. They magnify their calling and the anointing present in their lives. They lead men to a dependency upon their own ministry, and resource materials. They always have something to sell, and they seek to hype the material to make it appear absolutely necessary to understanding the actions and thoughts of God.

Have you not noticed television teachers who build up a teaching, speaking of how phenomenal it is, then at the end of the program they tell you that you can only get the full message if you purchase their video set, or book? Have you not noticed many ministries today who speak of the great anointing that is present at their churches and places of ministry, directing the saints to come to their location to experience the presence of the Spirit and receive an impartation? Of course, they also want you to stay at their hotel, eat at their restaurants, shop in their bookstores, and put your money in their offering

plates. On August 8, Todd Bentley went to Morningstar Ministries and Rick Joyner wrote of this event:

*Todd Bentley's Ministry on 8/8/08*

*We were very excited about having Todd Bentley back with us for the gathering on 8/8/08. Todd has stirred up the church like few others in recent times. There are also very few who are neutral about him. Immediately, unprecedented excitement and threats about Todd were coming. The threats encouraged us even more that this was from the Lord, but in these times, they must be taken seriously, and we prepared for a move of God and attacks from the enemy. As most of us have learned, the greater the move of God, the greater the attacks usually are.*

*We had food vendors, different exhibition tents, and bookstores set up and ready early in the morning, and people started coming just after 9:00 a.m., even though the main service was not scheduled to start until 5:00 p.m. By noon, the crowds were getting large, and everyone seemed to be having a great time in the festival atmosphere and the incredible weather...*

[Source: Morningstar Ministries - Special Bulletin]

Note, this was just a few days before the first revelations of Todd's sins became known to the body of Christ. I have noted an emphasis at Morningstar Ministries in creating a festival atmosphere and attracting large crowds. This goes hand in hand with a spirit of merchandising. I truly believe there is spiritual significance to the fact that Morningstar purchased the Heritage International Ministries campus where Jim and Tammy Bakker used to host the PTL Club. Jim Bakker's ministry was marked by financial transgressions and a focus upon money and worldly possessions, even to having a Rolls Royce on display. Rick Joyner has bought into this same Heritage, and he set a Bentley on display with the same intent of drawing a crowd and enlarging his following. ("Seeking to draw away disciples after themselves.")

This type of charlatanism was never more evident than at the Lakeland meetings of Todd Bentley. All who came were charged admission just to enter the building. Then they were hounded by Bentley to give generously that they might receive something from the Spirit of Christ. He would frequently suggest that God had revealed to him that a specific number of people would write checks for thousand dollar gifts, and often larger amounts. He would also bring some book up to the podium and tell people how wonderful and

indispensable it was. He would give a few “lucky” people a free copy, whetting people’s appetites as they hoped they would receive the freebie. When they were sufficiently lathered up, and disappointed that they did not receive what they now greatly desired, he would direct them to the book sales tables where they could receive a “special deal.”

These crass attempts to ply money from gullible and non-discerning believers reveal the absence of the fear of God in such men’s lives. No wonder that this same man was not afraid to carry on an adulterous relationship and engage in frequent alcoholic drunkenness during the same period of time he was conducting “revival” services.

The apostle Paul charged true ministers with the following command,

Acts 20:28

*Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*

In this spirit I am going to share some words of warning concerning what I perceive to be further attempts of the enemy to kill, steal and destroy, and I will not shrink back from naming names, and pointing out where I am perceiving wolves to be lurking. This is in keeping with the practice of the apostles.

III John 9-10

I wrote something to the church; but *Diotrephes*, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say. For this reason, if I come, *I will call attention to his deeds which he does...*

Let me begin with Peter Wagner and the International Coalition of Apostles which he heads. I first became concerned about this man after 911 when he sent out a writing saying that the catastrophic events of that day had nothing to do with the judgment of God. He set forth a very illogical and scripturally flawed argument that God does not use wicked men to bring judgment upon disobedient peoples. In an hour when the people of God needed desperately to learn the fear of God and to repent of their dalliance with the world and great idolatry, his was a voice, along with Dutch Sheets and numerous others, telling Christians not to think God was bringing judgment.

I wrote a reproof to his words at the time in the article *Don't Use the 'J' Word - Judgment*, though I did not identify him as the source of this false teaching. I have thought since that if his teaching is an example of current apostolic discernment of sound doctrine then the church is indeed in great trouble. More recent events have given me even greater cause for concern. As mentioned in the blog on Tropical Storm Fay, Peter Wagner and a dozen members of ICA were engaged in an endorsement ceremony for Todd Bentley just a short time before the entire Lakeland thing fell apart. I will quote from the article.

How many warnings were given to the church about the uncleanness of this work and the man leading it? Yet just a little over a week before this matter became known Peter Wagner, along with 16 others, laid hands upon Todd Bentley, commissioning him as an evangelist, and prophesying that what had begun was going to continue to grow and intensify. Wagner's organization, International Coalition of Apostles (ICA), was represented in that 13 people who participated in this endorsement of Bentley were deemed to be apostles by the organization.

If these were truly apostles, then where was their spiritual discernment? Did not any understand that there was great impurity present and God was about to expose and judge it? Were these truly apostles who not only endured this evil man, but who joined themselves to him thereby sharing in his sins?

I Timothy 5:22

Do not lay hands upon anyone too hastily and thus share responsibility for the sins of others; keep yourself free from sin.

Perhaps they were not truly apostles at all. I strongly suspect the majority are not appointed by the Lord as apostles. Their appointment has come from man.

Revelation 2:2

I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that *you cannot endure evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false...*

People of God, the Lord praised the church of Ephesus for not being willing to endure evil men, and putting to the test those who call themselves apostles. Yet because of the current false doctrine that says Christians are not to judge, I know I will receive criticism from many for exercising discernment

concerning these men and putting them to the test.

Even after Todd Bentley was exposed to be in serious sin, Rick Joyner of Morningstar Ministries wrote that Christians should not be hasty to judge the situation, but should withhold their judgment. I will provide a direct quote:

*Over the last couple of weeks, there has been an increasing swirl of controversy regarding Todd Bentley. I have had almost daily contact with him, and he asked me to post the following:*

*Todd Bentley asked me to convey his appreciation for all the prayers, expressions of love, and concern while he tries to navigate through this present situation. He is grieved by the trouble and confusion this has caused, especially to his friends, coworkers, and all who have trusted him. He wants to make a clear statement about it, acknowledging his responsibility in this and the mistakes he made, but he feels that he should first meet with Pastor Bill Johnson, who is out of the country and will not be available for a couple more weeks. He asks that you would continue to pray for him, and he thanks those who are willing to be patient. He wants to do this right and not hastily or superficially.*

*I would like to accept personal responsibility for counseling Todd to wait until he has talked with Bill before trying to make the “full disclosure” of his mistakes. This needs to be done right and in a way that does not unnecessarily hurt even more people. In just a couple of weeks, things should have calmed down enough for a statement to be made. Impatience is not a fruit of the Spirit, and I have personally never seen anything done under the kind of duress and pressure that some are trying to exert at this time that ended up not being a mistake.*

*The only thing that I have received from the Lord about this matter directly is that “those who rush to judgment will be exposed.”*

[Source: Morningstar Ministries Prophetic Bulletin]

People, let me share something with you that is a neglected truth in this hour. Judgment is not defined as only those judgments that are negative. Judgment also includes endorsing a person or event, for this is a positive JUDGMENT. I believe Rick Joyner may have clearly heard the Lord say, “Those who rush to judgment will be exposed.” All those men who participated in the alignment

ceremony of Todd Bentley “rushed to judgment.” They failed to test the matter according to scriptural command, and to “lay hands on no man suddenly” and they became partakers of the sin of Todd Bentley.

God is exposing at this time those who have not been exercising spiritual discernment. He is exposing those who have been embracing impure men and impure movements, and He is showing forth their great error in doing so. It should be noted that Rick Joyner was present at Todd Bentley’s endorsement ceremony (called by them “an alignment ceremony”) and he has made much of the fact that the “revival” had been carried to Morningstar, making numerous entreaties for Christians to come and join in their meetings and to book rooms at their hotel (the largest in South Carolina).

Note: The website for Morningstar’s hotel has a page encouraging the body of Christ to invest in the restoration of the hotel. It states:

*To sponsor the restoration of a hotel room is only \$5,000. You can also join the Nehemiah Project with a gift of just \$1,000 or more for the general restoration of the facilities. These gifts will be named on our specially designed Nehemiah Wall that will be a permanent memorial at Heritage. All who donate any amount to The Nehemiah Project will be included in our permanent Register of Donors.*

*There are also many new areas available for sponsorship, including the Main Street suites, apartments and shops. Now is the time. Establish your name as a part in Nehemiah’s Wall in the restoration of Heritage.*

*Also, you can donate stocks, appreciated assets, IRA gifts, and property. Donating these can save you significant amounts on your taxes and have your finances distributed into the Kingdom instead.*

It must seem a small thing to violate the command of the Lord to not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing when you sow money into God’s Kingdom. Are they not as the Pharisee who blew a trumpet before him when he made a gift to the temple treasury? And they are leading Christians into this same error.



Matthew 6:5

“Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.”

Using the Holy Scriptures to come up with sales gimmicks like a "Nehemiah's Wall" is reprehensible. It is also deceptive. It leads the naive to think that giving money to Morningstar to build a massive hotel is akin to the Jews returning from Babylon to rebuild Jerusalem. Morningstar may put your name on a plaque on a wall, or enter your name into their permanent register of donors, but in doing so they are merely using the carnal methods of the world to build a kingdom according to the principles of a fallen world.

Charisma magazine, in an article titled, *Leaders Commission Todd Bentley at "Lakeland Outpouring,"* stated that, "The special service was billed by leaders as one of the greatest moments in revival history." Peter Wagner, "presiding apostle" of the International Coalition of Apostles, was one of those who endorsed Bentley that evening, publicly stating,

*“This commissioning represents a powerful spiritual transaction taking place in the invisible world. With this in mind, I take the apostolic authority that God has given me and I decree to Todd Bentley, your power will increase, your authority will increase, your favor will increase, your influence will increase, your revelation will increase.”*

You can view Peter Wagner speaking these words in any number of YouTube videos that portray this event. Yet, having endorsed Todd Bentley so clearly, I found Wagner’s words after Todd’s sin was exposed to be far from apostolic. In another YouTube video he states that he did not “lay hands” on Todd Bentley, that only three apostles present did, and so his involvement should not be viewed as a commissioning of Todd. I am reminded of Adam hiding behind Eve after having eaten the forbidden fruit in the garden of Eden. Peter Wagner arranged the event. He had twelve other ICA members invited to stand with him, yet after it was exposed to be a tragic lapse in judgment he has



sought to distance himself from responsibility in the matter.

Compare these two statements of Peter Wagner together.

*“This commissioning represents a powerful spiritual transaction taking place in the invisible world. With this in mind, I take the apostolic authority that God has given me and I decree to Todd Bentley, your power will increase, your authority will increase, your favor will increase, your influence will increase, your revelation will increase.”*

[Peter Wagner]

*“I want to make it clear that I did not commission Todd as some wrongly think. I didn’t lay on hands. I didn’t anoint with oil. In fact, I moved to the back and neither my wife Doris or I prayed or prophesied.”*

[Peter Wagner]

A YouTube video including these remarks can be found here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sCRk6rnw2w>

There is clearly a lack of integrity in Peter Wagner’s actions since Todd Bentley was exposed. At the same time he has admitted that what has been revealed about Todd Bentley’s sins so far is but “the tip of the iceberg” and there are far more serious things going on. I am sure some of these sins involve inappropriate use of funds donated to Fresh Fire Ministries, and I would not be surprised to learn that there was even homosexual sin present as Todd Bentley brought Paul Cain to Lakeland and allowed him on the podium to address the crowds. Paul Cain was removed from ministry by Mike Bickle after it became known that this elderly prophet was engaged in homosexual activity with young men.

Rick Joyner wrote of Paul Cain’s transgressions back in 2004:

*In February 2004, we were made aware that Paul had become an alcoholic. In April 2004, we confronted Paul with evidence that he had been recently involved in homosexual activity. Paul admitted to these sinful practices and was placed under discipline, agreeing to a process of restoration which the three of us would oversee.*

*However, Paul has resisted this process and has continued in his sin. Therefore, after having exhausted the first two steps of Matthew 18:15-17, we now have a responsibility to bring this before the church. Our sincere hope remains to see Paul restored...*

Letter Signed By: Rick Joyner, Jack Deere, Mike Bickle

In a recent post from 2008 Rick Joyner wrote the following:

*When Paul Cain appeared on the platform of the revival in Lakeland it caused quite a reaction, jamming my personal emails to the point where I thought for a while it might be impossible to answer them all. Some were disconcerted about Paul's appearance, others by some of the things he said, and others were simply asking if Paul had been restored yet.*

*The reason why Paul was invited to the Lakeland revival was that he had prophesied that "the last-day ministry" would begin in Florida. I have personally heard Paul say this many times over the years and questioned him about it in depth. I believe it is a true prophecy, and when I heard that Paul was saying that what was happening in Lakeland was the fulfillment of this prophecy, I was very interested to hear what he would say about it.*

*I also felt that Todd Bentley was right to honor Paul by bringing him to that meeting and letting him share the vision he has carried for so long...*  
[Source: Morningstar Ministries - Special Bulletin]

Is it right to honor a man who has brought shame to Christ by engaging in behavior that God describes as "an abomination"? It would be a different matter if Paul Cain had confessed, repented, and been restored, but Rick Joyner made these statements knowing that Paul Cain was still practicing homosexual behavior, and was now denying that he had ever participated in it. In the same bulletin, Rick Joyner speaks of the efforts of Mike Bickle and others to restore Paul Cain.

*Later, Paul submitted himself to a restoration process and they declared him restored to ministry. When those who had led this process explained how they had accomplished this so fast, it set off more alarms in me. Some of the communication I had with them and with Paul only solidified my doubts. Even so, I had a great hope that I was wrong, or even if I was right about the validity of their restoration process, that the Lord would intervene some other way so that Paul could be delivered from the powerful strongholds that*

*had taken such a grip on his life.*

*I kept that hope until Paul spoke in Lakeland about “the allegations” about him and his assertions of having lived a celibate life. That was pretty overwhelming evidence that he has still not repented of these serious transgressions. What Paul called “allegations” are abundant and overwhelming evidence, which Paul has admitted to. However, admitting something is not the same as repenting of it. As long as there is blame-shifting, an attempt to cover them up, or dilute the seriousness of them, the restoration process has at best fallen far short of its purpose.*

*As it has been reported that Todd would not let Paul come back on the platform after he asserted that he had lived a celibate life is a credit to the integrity that Todd is trying to maintain in his ministry. If Paul had even just said that he had made serious mistakes in his life and owned them just a little, it would have given me hope, but it seemed quite clear to me that not much has changed with Paul, and in fact, they are getting worse.*

[Source: Morningstar Ministries - Special Bulletin]

Rick Joyner stated that it was “right” to “honor” this man who refuses to repent of serious sin. How is the church to judge the “rightness” of such an act? Are they to rely upon feelings, as Rick Joyner has done? No! This is one of the great failings of the church in this hour. They have departed from sound doctrine. They ignore the clear instruction of Scriptures in favor of following what “feels right.” The apostle Paul gives clear instructions in such a matter.

I Corinthians 5:9-13

*I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world. But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler-- not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves!*

If we are to test men such as Peter Wagner and Rick Joyner who call

themselves to be apostles, by what criteria should we test them? Should we not examine them to see if they are men of spiritual discernment, teaching things which are right to the body of Christ, and guarding both themselves and the flock against the encroachment of evil? On all accounts these men are falling short.

Rick Joyner declared in the previous quote that Todd Bentley having Paul Cain come to Lakeland, but later changing his mind “*is a credit to the integrity that Todd is trying to maintain in his ministry.*” Is it not more likely evidence that he made a great error in judgment, and then later changed his mind when the objections of the body of Christ began to arise in his ears? Rick Joyner has consistently misjudged Todd Bentley, giving him glowing endorsements, as indicated in the following words.

*I have known Todd Bentley for about a decade, and he is a man of exceptional theological depth, revelatory gifting, and the leader of a large and growing multi-faceted ministry that has had a significant impact on many nations. I have been to Abbotsford, B.C. a few times to speak at Fresh Fire Conferences, and I always marvel at the substance and excellence of what Todd has been able to build in such a short period of time as well as the quality of people on his team.*

*I am saying all of this because there is much more to Todd Bentley and Fresh Fire Ministries than has yet been revealed through what is now happening in Lakeland. I know Todd as someone who can teach or preach with a rare depth and clarity, but Lakeland is not really about that, at least not yet. It is about an impartation of faith, power, and fire. Right now we, the body of Christ, need these more than we need more teaching and strategy...*

*They came to get me to sit on the platform, and it was interesting how the anointing seemed different there. It was still good, but different. Even so, I enjoyed seeing Todd and a number of other friends I had not seen in awhile. When Todd came over and put his arm around me, it was a hug, but I also felt that I kind of needed to hold him up. He is under the kind of anointing that does stagger you and actually makes you feel drunk, which is why they thought the disciples on the Day of Pentecost were drunk with wine. Under this kind of anointing, I knew Todd might not be able to do some of the in-depth teaching and preaching he is capable of, but I don't think that is really the purpose of Lakeland anyway...*

*Todd has an amazing depth, maturity, and wisdom for his age, but he is still young. He might say some things wrong occasionally and say or do things that are hard to understand. His tattoos are real hard for some people to take, but those tattoos seem to be the very thing that have attracted many, especially the emerging generation, to him and his message. I have heard numerous reports of people who have become almost addicted to watching the revival on God-TV because they were channel surfing and were so captivated by Todd's appearance when that they could not stop watching. Then they started listening. Now they are on fire for God.*

*Even those who would never get a tattoo at least view him as a genuine person with no facades. My opinion of Todd for the years I have known him is that he is one of the most genuine people I have ever known, still untainted by religion, but one of the greatest lovers of God and His truth...*

*Todd has been sent to offend the religious spirit and to be an offense to the complacent, and thank the Lord it is working...*

I am appalled at the statements of Rick Joyner pertaining to this man. Not only are they examples of bad judgment, but they are manifestations of unsound doctrine. To declare that Todd is a man of "exceptional theological depth" is a grotesque distortion of the truth. This is the man who introduced the church to the angel Emma, Winds of Change, Financial Blessing and other spirit beings that Christians were instructed to embrace and send forth on their bidding. This is a man who turned on the air conditioner at a church he was visiting when he had been instructed not to do so, for birds were nesting in the vents. When feathers began flying down on people he declared them to be feathers of angels. This is a man who practices all manner of lying and deception regarding physical healing, and who has covered his body with tattoos to such great excess that even worldly people have their attention arrested when they see an image of him.

Rick Joyner was right when he said there was much more to Todd Bentley than had been revealed. Todd was a deceiver, and even Peter Wagner has stated that Todd deceived them all. Yet Rick Joyner confidently asserts that Todd is "a genuine person without facades." Was he genuine when he was carrying on revival meetings when getting drunk and being unfaithful to his wife?

People of God, it is often very hard to discern a person's character without a close familiarity with them. I find that I am a poor judge of a man until I get to know them closely. For this reason I have learned to not embrace a person too quickly. This is in keeping with the command of the apostle Paul.

I Timothy 5:22

Do not lay hands upon anyone too hastily and thus share responsibility for the sins of others; keep yourself free from sin.

We should immediately begin assessing a person when we are brought to a situation where we are invited to participate in their work and ministry. There has been an abundance of evidence concerning Todd Bentley, pointing to serious failures both morally and doctrinally. Where were the 500 apostles of ICA before Todd Bentley's sins were announced to the public? Where were the shepherds who were charged with guarding the flock of God. Dutch Sheets came out with a word about Bentley and Lakeland AFTER the sins had been exposed. He admitted to knowing there was much wrong there BEFORE the fall of this man came. Yet he failed to guard the flock against the savage wolves in her midst.

Now Dutch Sheets is in the midst of raising up another false work that has all the same telltale signs that were present at Lakeland. However a discussion of this new "movement" must wait for part 2 of this writing.

May you be blessed with peace and understanding in these days.

Savage Wolves (Part 2)  
Joseph Herrin (09-15-08)

Acts 20:29-30

I know that after my departure *savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.*



A significant part of the identity of the savage wolves mentioned above is that they “seek to draw away disciples after them.” In other words, they have a selfish motive in their ministry. They are seeking something for self. They are trying to build a following of their own, rather than directing the children of God to follow Christ. This is contrary to the walk of an overcomer.

Revelation 14:4

These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes.

Ministers are called to serve the flock of Christ by pointing them to a Spirit led life where Christ is the head of the body.

Ephesians 5:23-24

For the husband is the head of the wife, as *Christ also is the head of the church*, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as *the church is subject to Christ*, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

Colossians 1:18

*He is also head of the body, the church...*

Ephesians 1:22-23

And He put all things in subjection under His feet, *and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body...*

Christ prophesied to His disciples that if He be lifted up from the earth, speaking of His death on the cross, He would draw all men unto Himself. Yet of the savage wolves we read that they seek to draw men after themselves. In other words, they are interested in building their own ministries and this has become a true conflict in their devotion to Christ.

Many men begin with a sincere desire to lead others to Christ, but when men begin to be drawn to them to receive of their teaching or ministry, they begin to be seduced by the allure of building a personal following. They begin to build large organizations and to construct buildings to accommodate all those who are drawn after them. Such an occurrence is completely foreign to the words of the New Testament. We read of no ministry centers, or ministry organizations.

The most profound and far reaching ministry of the entire New Testament church age was that of the apostle Paul. He traveled with a group of believers whose number was in continuous flux, and never grew to more than a handful. He sometimes stayed in one city for a considerable amount of time, even a period of years, but never constructed a ministry center. On one occasion we read of Paul renting a school adjacent to a synagogue and using it as a place of teaching, but even then he sought no property of his own. He merely rented the space and let it go when the Lord revealed it was time to move on.

Acts 19:9-10

When some were becoming hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the multitude, he withdrew from them and took away the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. And this took place for two years...

Paul never needed a large ministry center for he was not seeking to draw men after himself, nor to make them perpetually dependent upon him. He rebuked the believers in Corinth for become factious, having organized themselves around personalities.



### I Corinthians 1:12-13

“Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ." Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?”

### I Corinthians 3:21-23

So then let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come; all things belong to you, and *you belong to Christ*; and Christ belongs to God.

Paul always kept in mind that the church belongs to Christ. They were not his followers. They were followers of Christ. Paul had no interest in creating a personal following. However, it did not take long for carnal men to begin trying to form themselves around a particular minister or ministry. In this present day in America we see this carnal tendency arising to heights never seen in history. Megachurches have formed around personalities. Joel Osteen draws 34,000 weekly to his meetings which are hosted in a building that would rival any municipal stadium. It is the former home of the Houston Rockets basketball team.



An article on the largest churches in Houston has this revelatory comment to make:

*Houston is well-represented on the list (of megachurches in America), with Lakewood Church ranking fifth (are there really four churches that are larger than one that holds its services in a renovated basketball arena?), Fellowship of The Woodlands at no. 17, Second Baptist Church at no. 33, and*

*Windsor Village United Methodist at no. 43. The common thread through all of these mega-churches is that each of them is closely associated with a charismatic leader, and that is certainly true of the Houston contingent -- Joel Osteen at Lakewood, Kerry Shook at Fellowship, Ed Young at Second Baptist, and Kirbyjon Caldwell at Windsor Village.*

This tendency of Christians in America to flock after men, rather than flocking after Christ, has become so commonplace that it is looked upon as both normal and desirable. But is it truly the will of God? Paul warned that a trait of savage wolves is that they would “*draw away the disciples after them.*” Perhaps the first question asked of Christians when they meet is, “Who is your pastor?” Or perhaps it is “What church do you go to?”

Search the Scriptures ever so diligently as you will and you will not find a trace of this type of behavior in the Bible except in a couple rare instances where it is roundly condemned. Paul condemned this tendency among the believers in Corinth, and John condemned Diotrephes for desiring to be first among the people of God and making himself a self-appointed ruler.

This tendency among the people of God to gather around personalities must be strenuously resisted. I believe God has allowed the church to know persecution in many nations for the chief purpose of negating this tendency among believers. Christianity was beginning to spread rapidly in China just prior to the Communist takeover of the nation, and many cities were building large churches after the same pattern seen in the West. When the Communists came to power, the church went underground and began to meet in homes. This by necessity kept the gatherings small, but they multiplied until it is estimated there are 80-100 million Christians in China meeting in house churches. The number of churches is undocumented but could exceed 2 million.

A wonderful consequence of the church being forced underground in China is that they are not spending their money building large edifices, and they are much more dependent upon the Spirit of Christ to direct them than their counterparts in America. Rather than getting their quarterly lesson outline from the denominational publishing house, they look to the Spirit of Christ to direct them. They are also protected from the tendency to flock after personalities as many in the West flocked to Lakeland, Florida, or to Fort Mills, South Carolina (Morningstar’s Heritage International campus).

All of this running after names and phenomena in America should bring to mind the warning of Christ.

Matthew 24:3-11

What will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" And Yahshua answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many... And many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many."

Is there not a great similarity to this warning and the warning Paul gave concerning savage wolves that would enter in among the flock to draw men after themselves? It is also to be noted that so much of the misleading teachings of this hour are coming forth from what is deemed as "the prophetic movement." Christ said many false prophets would arise and mislead many.

I would like to speak of one particular movement that is seeking to draw a following, and that is what is not being touted as "the Presence Movement" spearheaded by Dutch Sheets, and lauded by Peter Wagner and others. An extract from Dutch Sheets' website states the following:

*Get Ready for September! It is so huge on God's timetable that it will mark one of the greatest shifts in the spiritual realm our generation has ever seen:*

- *A season of suddenlies will begin*
- *The confusion and deception ruling America (including within the Church) will begin to lift*
- *The November elections will shift toward God's will*
- *The coming great awakening to America will go to a new level*
- *The "presence movement" will begin*

### ***The Presence Movement***

*The coming awakening will not be known as a prayer movement, apostolic movement, prophetic movement, teaching movement, miracle movement, gifts movement, glory movement, etc. It will include all of these but the dominant emphasis and characteristic will be His presence. He-- not one of His manifestations or elements of gifting -- will be the focal point.*

*Our ministry in Colorado Springs, along with many others I'm sure, has been privileged by God to help birth this. We were visited by the Holy Spirit June 15<sup>th</sup> and asked to host His Presence 24/7 for 90 days, just as Obed-edom did the Ark of the Covenant, also called "the Ark of His Presence" ( see 2 Samuel 6:10-11). We have suspended everything else to host Him-- no classes, no preaching (even on Sundays), no*

*programs—nothing but worship. It has wrecked us! His presence has been so overwhelming at times in our gatherings that none of us knows what to do. We are being ruined for “normal” Christianity.*

*It has become obvious to us that this assignment is on behalf of the entire nation. We are in the hidden, secret place with God, allowing Holy Spirit to hover through our worship and birth a “presence movement”. God has spoken to us prophetically that this movement characterized by His presence will begin to be released to the nation in September. To facilitate this we are moving our hosting of Him to a larger venue the last 3 days, September 11-13, and inviting many to join us. We are confident that what we, and I’m sure others, have been birthing will be imparted to hundreds—perhaps thousands—at that time.*

*When God spoke to me to expand the last 3 days for the purpose of impartation, I was not thinking about the fact that this would begin on our 88<sup>th</sup> day, which also begins the 8<sup>th</sup> year after 9/11/01. Eight is the biblical number for new beginnings. (Many of you are aware that Chuck Pierce prophesied that America would enter into a seven-year season of war, which began on 9/11/01.) We did not plan this visitation and consequent 90 day assignment to begin when it did, making the 88<sup>th</sup> day September 11, ending a seven year war cycle and marking a new beginning...but God did! Come and help us decree the end of the old season and launch this “new beginning” of the presence movement!*

*These 3 days will probably be unlike anything you’re been part of -- no preaching or teaching, just worship 24 hours each day. (We, of course, always make room for intercession and prophetic release as the Holy Spirit leads.) Some of us may bring a blanket and pillow and, like Joshua of old, stay in His presence all the time, except perhaps to freshen up once in awhile (see Ex. 33:11). (Please secure lodging if you’re coming from out of town, in order to have a place for your belongings, to clean up and to rest, if necessary.) I am certain that those who come will carry His presence home with them.*

When I read this I was immediately struck with the similarities to Lakeland. Dutch Sheets said there would be no preaching of the Word, and there was precious little of this in Lakeland, and when it did occur it was usually very elementary, or even worse it was error about angels and anointings and impartations. There is also an emphasis on music. Music was relied upon to a great extent to set a festive environment at Lakeland, to get people excited, and to raise their level of expectation. This is also a predominant feature at Morningstar and at Mike Bickle’s ministries such as IHOP.

Let me say a word about music, lest some misconstrue my words. The Scriptures clearly reveal that God is the author of spiritual songs and hymns. David was a man after God’s heart and he is called “the sweet psalmist of Israel.” The central book in the Bible is the book of Psalms, and I believe this is symbolic of the central role of worship in the kingdom of heaven.

Yet, even as Satan has produced false prophets by the myriad, he has also flooded the world and the church with counterfeit worship leaders and worshipers. The counterfeit of Satan stimulates the soul of man without causing the spirit within man to arise. Satan is well pleased to hear Christians singing and praising and worshiping God, as long as they do not do so “in Spirit and in truth.” Let the Christian offer to God an offering from the flesh and Satan has performed his job.

How do Christians discern the authentic from the counterfeit? I do not know of any set formula to distinguish the difference, but I will say this as a general rule. Satan’s counterfeit in the church sounds a lot like the music of the world. Yahshua declared “My sheep hear My voice and they will not follow another.” I think the same principle applies to discerning the music that comes from the Spirit. God’s sheep who know the voice of God will be able to discern the difference.

Can you tell the difference between emotional stimulation and entering into the presence of God? Many are unable to divide between soul and spirit, but it is a discernment the church desperately needs to learn. God is not pleased with all worship anymore than He is pleased with all prophecy. Christ said, “May will come to me saying... ‘Did we not prophesy in Your name?’” He will reply, “Depart from Me you workers of lawlessness. I never knew you.” In a similar vein we read:

Amos 5:21-24

“I hate, I reject your festivals, nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies... Take away from Me the noise of your songs; I will not even listen to the sound of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”

God then goes on to speak of the Israelites offering their praise to Him while they carried their idols along with them. So too does the church offer to God praise while they have idols in their hearts. Such worship is despised. Put away your idolatry, and pursue righteousness. Then God will delight in the voice of His children.

So much of the worship of the church today depends upon the gifting of the musicians and singers. Those who are chosen for worship leaders are picked for their talent rather than for a spirit of holiness. I have watched the musicians at particular ministries and noted how much they resemble the

musicians of the world in dress, appearance and mannerisms. If they have so molded themselves in these overt ways to the spirit of the world, will not their music reveal the same spirit?

Many Christians and ministries have embraced talented musicians and singers whose lives are marked by impurity. They are willing to overlook moral failings in order to have skillful worship leaders who will produce something that is professional and pleasing to the congregation. This is the same error manifested in those who have embraced men like Paul Cain and Todd Bentley when their lives were an offense to a holy God. Will God receive worship from those who are trampling on the blood of His Son and despising the Spirit of Holiness? He says, "Remove the wicked man from your midst."

The church has diminished her calling to a very low state. Many believers consider that they have fulfilled Paul's words to "not forsake the assembling of yourselves together" (Hebrews 10:24) when they have gone to their local center of worship on the appointed day of the week. Paul had something much higher in mind when he wrote of this. The word for "assembling" in the Greek is a very unusual and meaningful word. I will quote a passage of writing by J. Preston Eby that was forwarded to me by David Weber as I was writing this.

*The Greek word for "assembling" is EPISUNAGOGE. The word, literally, is a verb meaning to synagogue. It is a compound of the Greek prefix EPI with the word SUNAGOGE from which we get our transliterated English word Synagogue. EPI means super- imposition - that which is above, higher than, highest, upon. SUNAGOGE means a meeting, assembly, or gathering. Putting these two words together, EPI- SUNAGOGE means THE ABOVE SYNAGOGUE, THE HIGHER MEETING, THE HIGHEST ASSEMBLY, THE HIGHER-THAN-ALL-GATHERINGS! It bespeaks of something far greater than merely collecting so many breathing bodies together in one place. It is a meeting in a higher realm, on a higher plane, in the high places of the Spirit, and in the heights of Truth. It is a gathering together in a dimension above. It indicates an assembling IN THE SPIRIT, as Paul also testified, "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:6). Tens of thousands, yea, tens of millions of believers gather together in "church buildings" every Sunday morning, and because they make the effort to get out of bed, get the family ready, and drive off to a warm pew, they are convinced that they have met the requirements of the divine decree: "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together."*

*My beloved, they have not even touched the hem of the garment of this truth! We are not to forsake or neglect that wonderful seating we have together WITH CHRIST IN THE HEAVENLIES! That is precisely what the passage is saying. Hebrews 10:25 is nothing but lifeless words, until one sits in the presence of the Father, joined in worship with kindred spirits, and partakes of that holy communion within the veil! It is only as spirit calls to spirit that the depths of eternal truth are opened. And multitudes who meet together every week for singing, teaching, etc., have never discovered the glorious and eternal reality of that ABOVE SYNAGOGUE. They do not meet or minister or live from that higher than all heavens realm of HIS LIFE.*

David Weber adds:

*Tens of thousands, yes, even tens of millions of believers gather together in "church buildings" every Sunday morning, and because they make the effort to get out of bed, get the family ready, and drive off to a warm pew, they are convinced that they have met the requirements of the divine decree: "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together."*

*They do not meet or minister or live from that higher than all heavens realm of HIS LIFE where we (the church) are to meet. The "Church" is to be a VIBRANT LIVING ORGANISM THAT MEETS CONTINUALLY IN THE SPIRIT, not an earthly organization that meets on Sundays and Wednesday evenings!*

Does the worship of the church lift people into heavenly realms? If it does not help men and women to assemble in the presence of Christ, then it is merely a soulish substitute for the music of heaven. Sadly, the vast majority of music offered today is of the soulish kind.

An absence of preaching, a focus upon setting a mood with music, and an emphasis on manifestations and emotional euphoria are hallmarks of the types of movements Satan is raising up to ensnare the people of God and lead them into error in this day. I must mention that this is also the atmosphere of International House of Prayer, which I will speak on in part 3 of this series.

Dutch Sheets has come up with a new movement, a Presence Movement, that is being launched from his church, and he has invited Christians from all over to come and partake of it and to take the anointing back with them. He is promising an impartation even as did Todd Bentley. And like Todd Bentley,

you have to go to where he is to get it.

We should be mindful of the words of the Lord once more.

Matthew 24:26-27

“If therefore they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go forth, or, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe them.”

I would like to address this issue of various men and ministries promising an impartation in these days. Desiring to possess the ability to impart some anointing, or some presence of the Spirit of Christ is not new to this age. We read of an account 2,000 years ago of a man who desired greatly to have this ability, and it would be insightful to read the account.

Acts 8:18-23

Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.”

People of God, it is a serious thing to seek to take the things of God and use them for our own selfish ends. Todd Bentley had many convinced that he had a special anointing to heal. He foolishly spoke of the angel Emma moving on his behalf, and boasted that the healing anointing of Branham had been passed to him through this angel which Bob Jones introduced him to. This same Bob Jones who is now at Morningstar, endorsed wholeheartedly the Lakeland events, saying that he had prophesied their coming 25 years earlier.

BOB JONES: *“So what’s going on? 25 years ago I brought a prophesy (sic). The prophesy (sic) then was that the greatest showing on earth was going to begin. I would live to see it. It would be a 3 ring circus.”*

Truly it did have a circus atmosphere, complete with carnival barkers hawking their merchandise. Todd Bentley promoted the idea that he was the possessor of a special anointing that he alone could pass along to people. In a CBN News interview, Todd stated:



*"Our focus here in Florida every night is I lay hands on every single person who comes - whether it's 5,000, 10,000 - And I'm praying every night, 'God, give it away, give it away, give it away.' And that's the focus here: Impartation."*

Many people from around the world converged upon Lakeland to receive some supernatural impartation or gift at the hands of Todd. They were allowed in his presence only after having paid their admission fee, and then they were goaded into giving more money to cause God to give back to them abundantly according to their desire. Peter's words to Simon seem almost too soft to apply to the actions of Todd Bentley.

Acts 8:23

"For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity."

Is not Dutch Sheets manifesting the same spirit, albeit more subtly, when he encourages believers everywhere to congregate at his ministry in Colorado to partake of the Presence of God and to carry this movement back with them?

Rick Joyner has manifested a similar spirit in inviting the church to come to Morningstar to partake of the Lakeland revival that was transferred to them by some of their members. He wrote:

*The History and Future of the Present Revival - Part 1*

*An extraordinary move of God is now breaking out in America. The breakout in Lakeland has been spectacular and is growing fast. We are experiencing a breakout at our base at Heritage, which in some ways has already surpassed anything we have experienced before. It, too, seems to be growing in intensity, and people are starting to come from far distances to experience it. News about other moves of God is also beginning to show up on the spiritual radar...*

*How do we embrace it? Go to Lakeland, Heritage, or go anywhere else that a breakout is happening. True revival is contagious...*

Ah! Here is the caveat! If you want to experience what God is doing, you must go to where these men's ministry centers are. How convenient for them. They are drawing men to themselves, and even more so, Morningstar has a hotel and restaurants, bookstores and vendors set up for the "benefit" of the seeker

of God.

*For those of you who want to come to Heritage, we still have rooms available at the Heritage Grand, and are presently holding meetings nightly at 7:00 p.m. Call 1-800-542-0278, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. EST to reserve a room. They are filling up quickly.*

[Source: Morningstar Ministries - Special Bulletin]

My heart is saddened when I think of all the undiscerning, all the babes in Christ, who have flocked after these men and to various meetings out of a desperate desire to receive something from God. Many needed healing. Many simply wanted to be in the Father's presence, having seen the broadcasts on GodTV, where once more we see a tie in to Mike Bickle, for he is on the board of this organization.

Many who came from far distances with serious illness and injury, left in the same condition. All who were allowed into Todd's presence were pre-screened by his staff, and the serious conditions were turned away. Is this how God works? Does He turn down the hard cases while embracing the dubious and hard to observe ailments?

People of God, my heart has been stirred also at times in hope that God may possibly be doing some great work that I can go and participate in. My heart longs to be where God is moving, but He has given me discernment to not judge by the hype and emotion. The Spirit has given me this simple test of receiving His anointing.

God's anointing comes from the crushing of the flesh. Even as the oil to light the lamps in the Temple came from the crushed flesh of ripe olives, so too does the oil of anointing of the Spirit flow from the lives of God's children who have submitted to the crucifixion of their flesh. We all must pass through Gethsemane, whose name means olive press. Gethsemane was located on the Mount of OLIVES, and the people of God are depicted as an olive tree in Scripture.

God truly wants to impart a great Presence of His Spirit in the lives of each of His children. You need not run after some minister or ministry to attain it. You can submit to the cross right where you are, and as you do you will find the anointing revealed. No, this does not sound as attractive as merely going to a meeting and receiving an impartation. But Christ offers no other path to

a resurrected life in Him. The seed has to fall into the ground and die before it can bring forth life abundantly.

You can test these ministers and that which they promise by observing whether the message of the cross is present in their movements. I am very concerned about movements that do not include the preaching of sound doctrine. If they promise the Presence of God and an impartation apart from taking up the cross and following Christ, then their message is but a false hope, and they themselves are speaking perverse things to draw men after themselves.

I am going to end part 2 of Savage Wolves with a vision that was sent to me today via e-mail.

Miriam Franklin

Unto Us A Child Is Born.... Saints Beware! Antichrist Alert!

*In the small hours of this morning (September 11th), just before I fell asleep, I had a vision.*

*I saw a 'new-born' baby wrapped up in white swaddling, and placed within a Moses basket in an empty and bare stable. I saw it was the child of 'promise' that had just been born. From a distance it reminded me of a bland-looking nativity scene, and echoed slightly of Jesus the promised child born 2,000 years ago, but yet I knew it was not Jesus as not only was the scene badly wrong and off, but that there was this horrible knowledge of darkness I had associated with it.*

*I then realised with horror that the child I saw in that basket was the Latter Rain Manchild. It was a child of 'promise' but in a dreadful and dark sense. And the 'stable' was the counterfeit 'church', and the Moses basket the child was in resembled the presence movement or the Moses movement as advocated by Dutch Sheets and others. I clearly understood God to tell me that this illegitimate child had just been born (that is present tense, not past and not future). Though I knew it was intended by them, and had been spoken about for many years, and the signs were all there this was the NAR (New Apostolic Reformation) next step, I was grieved indeed that the time had actually come and it was actually happening in reality and not just false prophet-land of imagination, lies and hype. God had actually allowed it.*

*I got a closer look at the baby - it was really ugly. The white swaddling gave it an appearance of holiness, but it in no way took away from the child's essential ugliness (of character and nature), or its darkness. The swaddling was very, very tight to the point of being very constraining, and the child was bloated and red-faced because of it. And the child apart from being ugly was big and bloated and did not look like a newborn. It had the fiercest and darkest countenance, and I watched in amazement as soon with a voice like a fierce adult man the child barked evil black words of hatred. These came forth from its mouth directed towards the (true) saints. Yet at other times it would (try to) smile sweetly with a halo looking like a lamb, trying to imitate the Jesus in the Nativity paintings but being such an ugly distortion.*

*And as I thought on this vision, with part amazement and part horror, I was reminded of previous visions I had seen of a dark power spark falling from 'heaven' to earth to empower the plotting false church and its politicians, the antichrist and his false prophet. Previously they had lacked real spiritual power, depending instead on lies, illusion, hype and charlatanism and psychological manipulation and empty signs - but God said there would be a time when real spiritual power would come - the dark spark (dark meaning demonic) that would come to start their 'motor vehicle' - that would be allowed by God as a delusion but was not in any way from God.*

*I think that no longer will these false prophets be able to be shown up for their lack of medically verifiable healings or their excruciating bad prophecies not coming to pass. There would indeed be real 'signs' and 'miracles' - and possibly even fulfilled prophecies that seem remarkable and accurate - but God help us, these signs were not from God and still not testifying to scripture or the true Jesus or true gospel. They were of the evil one, albeit seemingly in 'Jesus' name.*

*Todd Bentley was a deliberate forerunner sent to deceive the masses in many more ways than one, let alone what seemed the obvious way - that is what happened then and there. Much more plotting and intelligence was afoot than is currently given credit for. For those that have been 'had', they are still had. But to those who 'discerned', note well that not all false prophets look and sound like Todd Bentley - do not be fooled into a sense of complacency or a sense of requiring such blatancy and obviousness before rejecting someone as a false prophet in a false revival in future - church beware! What happens next from these guys is not the TRUE revival after the false that some are waiting for - though it seems very different from Lakeland and*

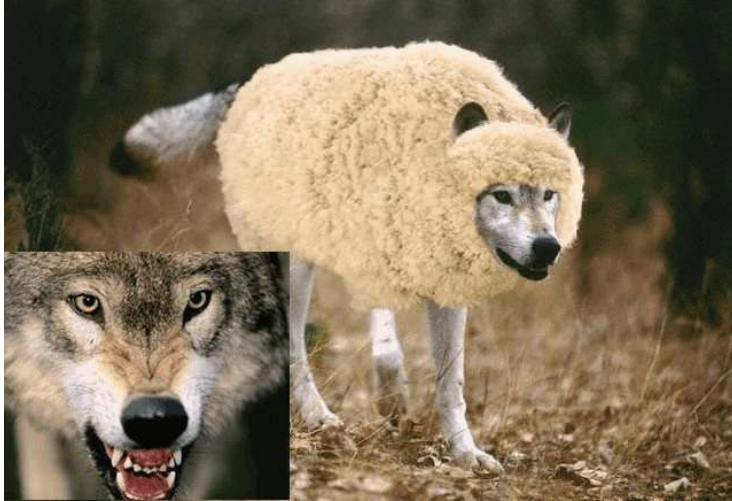
*Bentley it is still dark as can possibly be. And all in Jesus' name - remarkable!*

May you be blessed with peace and understanding in these days.

Savage Wolves (Part 3)  
Joseph Herrin (09-16-08)

Acts 20:29-30

I know that after my departure *savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.*



There is perhaps no man I have observed in relation to all of these organizations who has spoken more perverse things, and exerted a greater influence upon them, than Bob Jones. Bob is considered by many in the prophetic/apostolic movement to be a prophet of extraordinary gifting. Bob Jones was the driving force behind Mike Bickle's decision to begin the International House of Prayer movement. Bob Jones introduced Todd Bentley to the angel Emma and has influenced him to embrace other false doctrines and practices. Bob Jones is currently in residence at Morningstar where he exerts much influence over Rick Joyner. Who is this man, and what is he teaching?

Bob Jones was associated with the Kansas City prophets, as was Paul Cain. He gained influence among an emerging prophetic church movement and was on staff with Mike Bickle's church for a number of years. While maintaining an office there he, was discovered to be involved in serious sin. Following is an account of this event.

*The news about Jones was reported in the Olathe Daily Newspaper, 11/31/91. It contained that Jones admitted to sexual misconduct. He was removed from*

*“ministry” to undergo a process of “restoration.” This news was also published in a book called “What Happened To The Fire” by Lee Grady (1994). On page 103 it states, “About a year later, after the church had become affiliated with John Wimber’s Vineyard network of churches, Jones admitted to a moral failure and was removed from his leadership position. Later, Mike Bickle stated publicly that he had promoted Jones improperly. He admitted that his church’s emphasis on prophecy and mystical experiences had been unhealthy and destructive.”*

*Then, in another review of the Kansas City Prophets, Bill Alnor of the Christian Sentinel reported the following: “Jones, who was using his spiritual authority to induce women to disrobe for him, was removed from that church...” The Apologetics Index, which is a ministry that researches resources on cults, sects and other religious movements, doctrines and practices, also reported on the matter. They state the following, that Bob Jones “was removed from the Vineyard Anaheim because of sexual improprieties, which consisted of encouraging women to undress in his office so they could stand ‘naked before the Lord’ in order to receive a ‘word.’” In addition to this, several cult watch organizations have put him (Bob Jones) on watch for the same thing.*

This was an abominable act by Bob Jones. It represents a severe manifestation of the spirit found in Simon the magician who sought to purchase the gift of the Holy Spirit to use for selfish ends. It is the spirit of Balaam, and symbolically it represents touching the bride of Christ in an impure way.

When a minister lures Christian women into his office with the promise of them receiving something from the Lord, and then uses his reputation as a spiritually gifted minister to persuade the naive and gullible to strip naked to satisfy his own carnal lust, he has stepped into very dangerous territory, for the church is the bride of Christ, and God’s name is Jealous.

Exodus 34:14

For Yahweh, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God...

Hebrews 10:30-31

For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge His people." It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

This transgression occurred in 1991. In the years preceding Bob Jones had been heavily influencing the direction of Mike Bickle's ministry. Indeed, reading Mike Bickle's own words on this, Bob's influence was extraordinary, and out of this influence the International House of Prayer was formed. In the above disclosure of Bob's serious transgression we have the words of Mike Bickle.

*Mike Bickle stated publicly that he had promoted Jones improperly. He admitted that his church's emphasis on prophecy and mystical experiences had been unhealthy and destructive.*

Should not Mike Bickle have gone back and reassessed all actions taken at the urging of Bob Jones? Should he not have seriously questioned whether this man was under the influence of unclean spirits, even as his life was manifesting the influence of great uncleanness? On the IHOP website is an article written by Mike Bickle which documents how IHOP came into existence. In this short history the name of Bob Jones is mentioned 28 times. In contrast the name of Christ is mentioned only 3 times. There is also a heavy focus upon angelic visitations. Following are a few quotes from the article.

*The first word that Bob Jones gave to me on march 7, 1983*

*A. Bob Jones' first prophecy to me, "You will lead a worldwide youth movement of prophetic singers and musicians that God will release in power evangelism and use to mobilize worldwide prayer for Israel. This youth movement will be given abundant grace to operate in the prophetic and intercession..."*

*Bob Jones encounter with angels – Aug. 8, 1975*

*A. History on Bob Jones: he was born in 1929 and grew up in the hills of Arkansas. He had two angelic experiences in his youth (Age 9 and 15). Bob met the Lord at age 39 (Sept. 1969). He worked on trees (spraying and trimming) for many years in Kansas City.*

*B. He had his first major prophetic experience on Aug. 8, 1975. Bob had a "near death experience" in which his spirit left his body and stood before the Lord. The Lord sent him back from death to help the earliest leadership of a future worldwide youth movement. Bob saw two angels who spoke to one another about the future outpouring of the Spirit in Kansas City. They*



*described it as being like an atomic explosion of light and that it would be characterized with prophetic and intercession (in Jan. 1984 the Lord showed Bob that “prophetic and intercession” would need to be joined with “compassion and worship” to be complete).*

*C. Bob saw both a great revival and crisis coming on a worldwide scale just prior to Jesus’ return. Holy believing persevering prayer is God’s primary appointed means for releasing abundant mercy and grace through His Church in the time of revival and crisis.*

*D. God showed Bob that He would raise up a worldwide youth movement in Kansas City that would persist in night and day prayer that was led by prophetic singers and musicians. The first anointing will be on prophetic singers and musicians leading to an “open heaven.” God would answer their prayers by releasing revival in the Church, power evangelism (world missions), justice in society, pockets of mercy (“cities of refuge”) and worldwide intercession for Israel.*

*E. The angel told Bob of the coming of a world war followed by worldwide famine. The urgent need for night and day intercession is understood in context to the coming worldwide crisis...*

*H. On Aug. 8, 1975, Bob heard the angels speak to each other about God sending a spiritual and a natural breadbasket across the earth from a 500-mile radius around Kansas City in a time of natural and spiritual famine. The prophetic and intercession are redemptive gifts in the Midwest that are essential to releasing this blessing (bread, revelation, finances, houses of prayer, etc.).*

*I. The angels saw God raising up what we refer to as “pockets of mercy.” For example, there will be rain on areas in the time of drought and financial prosperity in the time of economic crisis...*

*C. Bob tells of over 100 prophetic revelations of a youth movement rising up in KC (1975-1983). Bob’s former pastor testified of how Bob publicly prophesied of the young people that would come to south Kansas City in the spring of 1983 seeking revival through intercession...*

*Bob explained that God will give specific prophetic signs in heaven (i.e., the sky: including comets and weather patterns) and on the earth (earthquakes,*

*etc.) to validate prophetic words. Signs in heaven (sky) and earth that are foretold with accuracy cannot be manipulated by man. Thus, they confirm the important content of the prophetic dreams and visions. God holds people accountable to believe and act in obedience when He confirms words by signs in the heavens...*

*Thursday April 14, Bob Jones is visited by Gabriel who says, “give the young man Dan. 9 and he will understand.” The Lord shows Bob that the fast will be confirmed by a comet unpredicted by scientists and it should start on May 7. This would be a significant time in which God would sovereignly speak to the youth movement and establish some of its spiritual DNA.*

Bob Jones before his emergence as a prophet spent time in a mental institution. He has said that while in the mental institution that God told him that in order for him to get his mind back he would either have to kill, or forgive, twelve people. Does this sound like the voice of God? Soon after this, Bob began having prophetic experiences and encounters with angelic beings. Why has the church been so quick to accept these experiences as being from God?

Mike Bickle stated it well when he said that he and his church’s “*emphasis on prophecy and mystical experiences had been unhealthy and destructive.*” The church traded an emphasis upon sound doctrine and the study of the Word of God for prophetic and mystical experiences. The consequences have been devastating. Yet even having confessed this failure, nothing has been done to remedy it. Consider the following words that Mike Bickle wrote in the above article.

*(in Jan. 1984 the Lord showed Bob that “prophetic and intercession” would need to be joined with “compassion and worship” to be complete.)*

Where is a mention of a focus upon sound doctrine? Should not a ministry that draws thousands of young Christians have a major emphasis upon laying a foundation upon the teaching of the apostles? Can IHOP, or any other ministry truly be “complete” without such an emphasis? Consider the testimony of Luke in the book of Acts.

Acts 2:42

And they were continually devoting themselves to *the apostles' teaching* and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

It is the practice of Satan to twist things in such a way as to arrive at an end that is contrary to the will of the Father. Even as Satan quoted Scriptures to Christ while seeking to entice the Son of God to sin, so too does He do the same thing with the body of Christ today. If he can get a people en masse to depart from sound doctrine and the apostles' teaching, and to place the emphasis upon new revelations and words of prophecy, he has positioned a people to embrace great deception. Degree by degree he will lead them astray from the purposes of God until their beliefs and practices bear no resemblance to apostolic teaching.

In every instance where Bob Jones' influence has been felt there has been a departure from sound doctrine and a de-emphasis upon the word of God as one of the chief witnesses of God by which all things are to be tested. In place of the word of God mystical experiences, encounters with angels, visions, and prophecies have become the norm. At Lakeland this was very clearly the order of the day. Morningstar has long promoted a similar atmosphere, and it was especially evident after having imported the Lakeland "revival" to their Heritage facility in South Carolina. IHOP provides a similar environment. Sound doctrinal preaching is very much absent.

Satan has done a profoundly influential work through the hands of one man, Bob Jones. Patricia King of Extreme Prophecy, a close friend of Bob's, states that Bob has been responsible for fathering many sons and daughters in the church. Mike Bickle, Rick Joyner, and Todd Bentley have all been profoundly influenced by this man, and have in turn influenced tens of thousands of others.

In Rick Joyner's book *The Final Quest*, he portrays a scene where he is engaged in a battle with the forces of darkness and he is fighting as he ascends a mountain. The higher he goes, the greater his skill in battle becomes. At one point high up the mountain he nearly slips and falls, which would have resulted in great injury or death. He describes taking his sword and driving it deep into the rock of the mountain and tying himself to it that he might be anchored. An eagle, who represents a spirit of prophecy, speaks to him and tells him he was wise to do what he did. The sword represents the Word of God, and if he were to not use it for an anchor he could well meet with

calamity.

Sadly, even though Rick Joyner received this revelation of the necessity of being anchored to the Word of God, he has departed from it. In embracing Bob Jones, Todd Bentley, and the entire gamut of mystical experiences and doctrinal corruption that have attended them, Rick Joyner has departed from the word of God. Injury has already occurred, both to himself and the body of Christ, and if not quickly remedied the end will be spiritual death.

I will provide a link here to a video produced by Extreme Prophecy where Patricia King is interviewing Bob Jones and Todd Bentley. There is a total departure from sound doctrine, and an emphasis upon mystical experience. The ascension into the third heaven and seeing lights is totally anti-Biblical in nature, and the assumption that men can make such journeys at their own will is deplorable. There is much that reeks of the occult and new age practices, but a church who will not test all things carefully will eagerly embrace the deceptions of Satan.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGCTMEoifqQ>

Recently, the Lord directed my steps to Fort Wayne, Indiana. The group I was sent to speak unto was comprised of young believers who are involved with the local IHOP ministry. The young man leading the discipleship school is a missionary on staff with IHOP, and all the members of the school go there several times a week.

I was able to observe first hand the influence of IHOP upon young Christians today. Mike Bickle focuses very heavily upon the love of Christ, Christ as the Bridegroom, and intimacy and union with Him. Worship is made the central focus of all, and there is consequently a de-emphasis upon other points of truth and doctrine and discipleship. The fear of God, His holy character, judgment upon all sin in the church, and a demand for personal righteousness and a surrendered life, taking up the cross and enduring hardship, are all given less attention or none at all.

As I interacted with these young believers I discerned that there was a great lack of balance in their lives. God sent me to proclaim the message of the cross, and a complete surrender to the leading of the Spirit in all things. I shared from Scriptures and from my own testimony about the call to endure hardship and suffering. I spoke of God's severe discipline in the lives of His sons, scourging all those whom He receives.

On the last day of my speaking to them, one of the young ladies present was asked about a book she had with her. It was titled *The Shack*. It had the reputation among a number in this group as being perhaps the best book they had ever read. When asked about it this young woman replied that if a person only read this one book to develop their theology, they would do well. She said that it portrayed God as such a happy God, that He was happy all the time.

This comment really opened my eyes to the great deception that has spread to so many believers through the influence of ministries like IHOP. I was set to give a presentation that evening on all the signs God has been giving that speak of judgment that is swiftly coming to His people and the nations. God has been testifying that He is anything but happy. His attitude is one of great indignation over the sin and idolatry of His people.

Satan has done a profound job of leading a large portion of the people of God away from sound doctrine. It requires patience, and effort to dig deeply in the Scriptures and to ground oneself in a proper comprehension of the word of God. I spent thousands of hours as a youth digging through the word of God with a Strong's Concordance in one hand and a Bible in the other. Paul told Timothy:

II Timothy 2:15

*Be diligent* to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

The Greek word translated as “be diligent” bears the understanding of applying oneself to a matter with eagerness and earnestness and effort. IHOP provides an atmosphere where Christians can come in and listen to music 24 hours a day, and they can pray. This is far more attractive to the flesh and soul of man than diligent study of the word. It is no wonder that these types of ministries have proven so successful in attracting devotees. There is nothing sexy or alluring about laboring over the word of God, but a people who fall away from a diligent study and application of the Scriptures will find themselves ripe for every deception and lying spirit that arises in these last days.

Colossians 2:18-19

*Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,*

*and not holding fast to the head...*

I am convinced that Bob Jones is a false prophet under the influence of deceiving spirits. If the events at Lakeland were not enough to convince a Christian that the angelic beings introduced to Todd Bentley by Bob Jones were unclean spirits, then I do not know what it will take to convince them. If Todd had been having conversation with holy angels, his conduct would be holy. He would be walking in the fear of God, rather than being inflated by his fleshly mind.

Is it not telling that all of these men claiming great prophetic gifts have had serious moral failures at the time of their walking in these gifts? Paul Cain was and is practicing homosexuality, seducing young Christian men. Bob Jones was encouraging Christian women to undress before him, again acting as a seducer. Todd Bentley has had immoral relations with women on his ministry staff on multiple occasions, and we are told that there are worse sins that have not been made public knowledge as of yet.

I John 3:7-8

*Little children, let no one deceive you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning.*

I want to stand up and shout it out to the body of Christ, "STOP LETTING THESE MEN DECEIVE YOU!" If you are involved with these men and their ministries, do your homework. Examine carefully what they are teaching. Ground yourself in the word of God. Test all things. Stop acting as naive children, babes without understanding. You will surely perish in coming days if you do not start exercising godly discernment!

Matthew 24:24-25

*"For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told you in advance."*

Christ spoke a warning to His disciples. He has told you in advance. There are false Christs (anointed ones) and false prophets at this very hour. Can you not recognize them? Will you not come out from among them?

Test those who call themselves apostles!

Test those who call themselves prophets!

Test those who say they are anointed servants of God!

Test the teachings that are being proclaimed!

Test yourself to see if you are in the faith!

If you surrender all spiritual discernment in this hour and depart from sound doctrine and a sure grounding in the Word of God, you will surely be swept away to your own destruction.

Revelation 12:15

And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood.

I received yesterday an e-mail from a 72 year old Christian woman with whom I have corresponded in the past. She responded very negatively to my mention of the homosexuality of Paul Cain. She sent a letter condemning my actions to another sister in Christ, sending me a copy of it.

*I AM SORRY BUT I THINK THIS WHOLE ARTICLE IS VERY SICK. WHO IS HE TO JUDGE THE BODY OF CHRIST. IT WAS NOT DONE IN LOVE. THE SCRIPTURES SAY IF YOU BREAK ONE COMMANDMENT (SINCE HE, JOSEPH, IS LEGALISTIC) YOU HAVE BROKEN THEM ALL. HE DID NOT SUPPORT HIS FAMILY AND IS "WORSE THAN AN INFIDEL" ACCORDING TO GOD, SO WHO IS HE TO POINT THE FINGER. I THINK PAUL CAIN SHOULD BE PRAYED FOR AND COUNSELLED NOT CONDEMNED PUBLICALLY ON THE INTERNET. WHAT DOES THIS ARTICLE LEAD TO? HE HAD NO POSITIVE ANSWERS TO SUGGEST. HE IS IN BABYLON, MIXTURE, AS HE IS SPIRITUAL ONE DAY AND VERY CARNAL THE NEXT. I CHOSE TO COME OUT OF BABYLON. C.*

Because I declared that it was great error to “honor” a minister who is unrepentant in practicing homosexuality, and an example of unrighteous judgment to allow him to speak to the body of Christ, I am condemned as “legalistic.” I tremble when I read such accusations for I know that God’s people who have cast aside all discernment and judgment in this hour will be swept away in coming days. In the writing that spoke of Paul Cain’s sin I quoted the words of the apostle Paul:

I Corinthians 5:9-13

*I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world. But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler-- not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves!*

Christians are NOT legalistic by heeding these clear words of command. They will fall far short of the will of God if they fail to judge those within the church. This mindset that all judging is to be avoided has arisen at the hands of Satan, the great deceiver. If you want to understand ACCURATELY the counsel of Scripture concerning judgment, I would encourage you to read the article *The Issue of Judging*.

I have been asked by some involved with International House of Prayer, "What could possibly be wrong with a prayer meeting?" It seems incredible to some that God could ever judge such a work to be wrong. This also is a manifestation of a departure from the study and understanding of Scripture. All they need do is read again Christ's following words:

Matthew 7:22-23

"Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"

We might as well ask, "What could possibly be wrong with prophesying?" "What could possibly be wrong with casting out demons?" "What could possibly be wrong with performing miracles?" It is not the action itself that makes it righteous or unrighteous. It is whether the action is performed at the command of the Father. If a believer has no command from God to be involved in a specific work then he is acting lawlessly. He is out from under the authority of God, and even works that have an APPEARANCE of righteousness will be rejected by Christ, and those who perform them as lawless ones, when God is not the initiator of the activity.



Christ performed all of the activities described here. He cast out demons, prophesied and performed miracles. But He NEVER did so of His own initiative.

John 5:19-21

"Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and greater works than these will He show Him, that you may marvel."

A church that neglects the word of God will never discover what is required for their lives to be pleasing to the Father. Christ never did anything of His own initiative, and neither must the people of God. Christ said the Father was revealing to Him what He was doing so the Son could act in like manner. Christ only did those things the Father commanded Him to do, and so must the people of God be led of the Spirit in all things.

Christ only prophesied when the Father told Him to prophesy, and He was so perfect in this that He declared "I do not even speak a word of My own initiative. I only speak the words the Father commands me to speak." How then can any say that just because there is a 24 hour prayer meeting and worship service going on that it must be the will of God? This entire ministry was initiated at the words and encouragement of Bob Jones who has demonstrated that he is under the influence of unclean spirits.

**BEWARE OF WOLVES.**